

2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

Spokane County Conservation District



Most Significant On-the-Landscape Accomplishment

The Spokane Conservation District has been fortunate to provide a low-interest financing alternative to growers in Spokane County for the purchase of new and used conservation tillage equipment. The goal is to help growers reduce soil erosion through two mechanisms: 1) Aid producers in making the transition from conventional to conservation tillage and 2) Aid producers in the implementation of alternatives to agricultural burning.

Mission of the Spokane Conservation District

- *To promote the sustainable use of natural resources in Spokane County.*
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Water Quality Implementation

Shoreline Inventory and Assessment Project

- *Inventoried and assessed 73,392 linear feet (13.9 miles) of California Creek and 63,360 linear feet (12.0 miles) of Marshall Creek.*

Little Spokane River Water Quality Management Plan

- *Assisted WSU in water quality sampling at 25 sites for TMDL.*
 - *Sampled 600 field parameters and approximately 600 laboratory samples for analyses along with 200 discharge measurements.*
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Basic Funding

Basic funding was used to augment the technical assistance provided by our forestry resources program.

- *Timber management and selective thinning assistance was provided to 7 landowners affecting 221 acres of land.*
 - *On-site technical assistance was provided to 45 landowners affecting a total of 860 acres for insect and disease identification and control, forest management, fuel hazard reduction, improving wildlife habitat and re-vegetating critical need areas to non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF).*
 - *Reforestation technical assistance was provided to 17 landowners on 60 acres with 30,000 trees planted.*
 - *Provided on-site assistance for the establishment of 1 windbreak using 500 trees.*
 - *Provided on-site assistance to 2 landowners for wildlife habitat cover and corridors, affecting 13 acres with 2,250 shrubs.*
 - *Technical assistance was provided to the Spokane County Road Department for right-of-way enhancement and development on 142 acres.*
 - *Forestry resource information was provided to 236 walk-in customers; over 1400 phone-in; and 143 mail-outs.*
 - *Forestry education and outreach activities were provided through 2 school presentations; 2 booth displays; 2 workshops, and 1 seminar resulting in several hundred contacts.*
 - *62,400 trees and shrubs were sold to 835 landowners during our 2005 tree sale.*
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Local Funding

- *Thirty-five (35) percent of our local assessment supported the soil survey for Spokane County. Over 155,000 acres were mapped during the 2005 reporting period.*
 - *Sixty-five (65) percent of our local assessment was used as leverage for State Revolving Fund loans. We currently have 100 low-interest loan contracts in Spokane, Whitman, Asotin, and Adams Counties impacting nearly 114,000 acres. There is currently \$1.9 million available in Spokane and Adams counties as well as \$1.6 million available for loans in Asotin and Whitman counties.*
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Livestock/Dairy

- *One additional dairy was certified and the other has an approved Nutrient Management Plan that will be implemented in the next 6 months.*

Legislative Activities

- SCCD staff continues to work with Washington State Legislators to develop and implement legislation related to District programs, budgets and grants. Staff spoke at 7 hearings, met with more than 30 legislators, and made numerous phone and email contacts.
- SCCD sponsored State Legislators from around the state on a tour of Eastern Washington agriculture. The tour included a stop at local farms where the legislators saw first-hand the benefits of direct seeding and the SRF program. SCCD staff made a short presentation on the work of the District and the current status of the oilseed and bio-diesel projects.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

Riparian Buffer Program

- Completed 21 projects where 14,750 trees and shrubs were installed on 8,255 feet of streambank (2.17 miles).
- Seeded total of 1.0 acre of native grasses and provided weed management on 4 acres.
- Installed 1,250 feet of riparian fence installed to keep livestock out of waterway along with 2 off-creek water systems.

Conservation Futures Project

An additional 4,650 trees and shrubs (volunteer project) were planted on the Feryn project. Weed control was provided on 51.

Small Farm Programs

Through a TSP agreement with USDA-NRCS and State funding by the Washington Conservation Commission, SCCD hired a contract employee to write conservation plans in Spokane County.

- A total of 105 landowner contacts were made, 33 landowners initiated conservation plans or practices on their own.
- 10 landowners initiated plans or practices using district technical assistance.
- 34 conservation plans were completed during the reporting period.
- 25 BMPs were implemented on over 6,000 acres of ground protecting or enhancing surface and ground water.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- SCCD staff continues working with the City of Spokane towards implementation of the first two right-of-way enhancement projects. Partial funding was provided through an amendment to the 2004/2005 Water Quality Implementation Grant to re-allocate a portion of the unused grant funds to this project.
 - SCCD participated in several educational events for children, including the Model Farm and Farm Forum, resulting in over 1200 K-12 contacts.
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Washington Conservation Districts assisting
land managers with their conservation choices.